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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Brazil

SUBJECT Absence of Communism in the Amazon Regions

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1. The entire region of the Amazon is considered to be a frontier land insofar as political affairs are concerned. Its inhabitants are not politically conscious as the majority of the population resides in the jungle. It is only in the scattered villages and towns that one finds people who are politically active. I would consider that Belém is the political hot spot, during elections, of the entire Amazon and this is apparently due to the presence of a large foreign element in that city.
2. I believe the Amazon River region to be fertile ground for the spread of communism. But five or six men own or control almost everything of value with the result that the population is quite poor and the region's economy has been sustained to a large extent by government grants. The Communist Party is illegal in Brazil and although individual members still flourish I have not heard of any organized communism in the Amazon and I do not believe that communism is to be considered a present threat. Due to my many widespread contacts and the church which I represent, I am sure that if there have been any attempts to organize the Communist Party or its cells I would know about such efforts.
3. I know of but two individuals in the upper Amazon who are considered to be Communists. One is Plinio Coelho who is the head of the Brazilian Workers Party (PTB) in Manaus. Coelho is not a thoroughly indoctrinated Communist but is, instead, a person who has heard that communism is a good thing. He is a Brazilian

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and occupies an influential position in that he controls the docks at Manaus. Amazon newspapers have declared that Coelho is a Communist although he has publicly denied such accusations.

4. Another person who is believed to be a Communist is a Brazilian doctor, whose name I do not recall, who is the editor of a Communist paper formerly published in Manaus and known as "LUTA" (The Fight). This paper has followed the Communist Party line and has emphasized the theme of the Communists in Northern Brazil with statements such as "The Oil is Ours -- Keep the Yankees Out" and similar items intended to inflame the public by implying that American capitalists want to take Brazil over for their own gain. This paper was suppressed by the Amazonas State government about three years ago and, as far as I know, has not reappeared. To the best of my knowledge there is no Communist publication being presently published in the Amazon.
5. Other than the above two known Communists there are a few other individuals who are considered to be Communists although quite ineffectually so. For a period when I lived in Manaus two barbers resided a block away from me. These two considered themselves as Communists but were so ridiculous in their actions that the people of Manaus who knew them couldn't take them seriously and make fun of them.
6. Propaganda broadcasts are received in the Amazon from many different places. Radio Moscow enjoys perfect reception, being received very clearly and with no interference. Its programs are broadcast in both Portuguese and English and are listened to occasionally by people who have access to radios. Those people who listen to it do so only for the music that is broadcast and pay little, if any, attention to Radio Moscow's propaganda aspects. The Voice of America comes in from New York City but is not listened to, to any great extent. BBC programs are also beamed to the Amazon with English programs being received. Of those who own or listen to radios by far a majority of them listen to, and prefer, the average Brazilian radio station due to the native music and programs heard over such stations.

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894.01	3H
917.114	3H
893.3	3H(N)(V)
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